

## GLADIOLI

### i

i've seen red ones  
yellow ones  
& white ones  
possibly pink but  
i'm not sure.

### ii

they always seem to be present  
at weddings & funerals.

### iii

they masquerade as pumpkins  
& gourds on halloween.

### iv

they turn into unmatched socks  
when left behind  
in laundromat dryers.

### v

van gogh found them temperamental  
difficult to work with &  
turned to sunflowers as models.

### vi

they are tall  
or at least seem to be  
pulled up quite high  
on thick green ropes.

### vii

when i was young  
the thought that these giants  
lingered in my grandmother's backyard  
terrified me.

### viii

there are at least 35 of them  
right now outside this window  
growing closer all the time.



ix

they grow from bulbs  
& come back in the spring  
like snakes uncoiling.

x

their name means small sword.

xi

rimbaud went to abyssinia  
& smuggled them.

MORNINGLAND

finally after much effort we  
succeed in tracking down her girlfriend  
who now owns a health food store  
& is a member of a religious commune  
or something has friends with  
names like karass and dharma  
who all wear these airbrushed  
t-shirts and order margaritas  
without tequila when we go out  
for dinner at the mexican place

SAN DIEGO

she works part time  
fixing up & then selling  
oriental rugs her latest  
one & only true love  
has left her gone to denver  
she tells me how much he's  
like the lady i'm with  
shows pictures full of muscles  
is into health foods yoga  
astrology the usual she even  
balls an up & coming rock star  
on the side we smoke joints  
she makes me gin & tonics  
in the morning breakfast